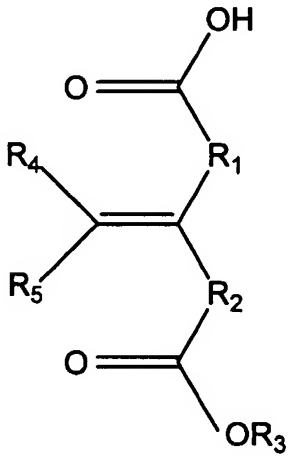
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

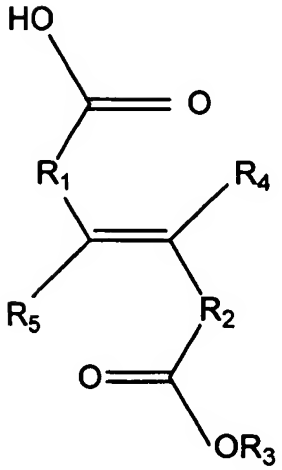
1 to 5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently Amended) A negative resist composition comprising:

a polymer having any one of dicarboxylate monoester compounds represented by the following general formulae (1) and (2) as a monomer component:



(1)



(2)

wherein, R_1 and R_2 represent a single bond or alkyl chains having ~~0~~ 1 to 8 carbon atoms, R_3

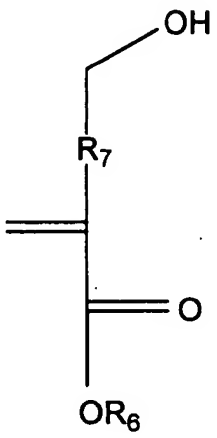
a substituent having at least two or more alicyclic structures, and R_4 and R_5 represent hydrogen atoms or alkyl groups having 1 to 8 carbon atoms; and

an acid generator which generates an acid by receiving light irradiation.

7. (Previously Presented) The negative resist composition according to claim 6, wherein said substituent having at least two or more alicyclic structures is at least one selected from the group consisting of adamantane, tricyclodecane, tetracyclodecane, isobornyl, norbornene, adamantane alcohol and norbornene lactone.

8. (Previously Presented) The negative resist composition according to claim 6, wherein said polymer is a copolymer of the dicarboxylate monoester compound and other monomer polymerizable with the dicarboxylate monoester compound.

9. (Previously Presented) The negative resist composition according to claim 8, wherein said other monomer polymerizable with the dicarboxylate monoester compound is at least one monomer represented by the following general formula (3):



(3)

wherein, R_6 represents an alkyl group having 1 to 8 carbon atoms or a polycyclic hydrocarbon group, and R_7 represents an alkyl group having 1 to 8 carbon atoms.

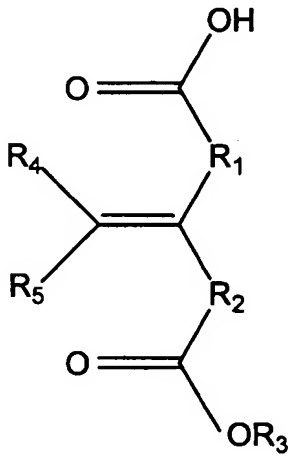
10. (Currently Amended) A method of forming a resist pattern comprising the steps of:

forming a photoresist film on a substrate using a negative resist composition; and

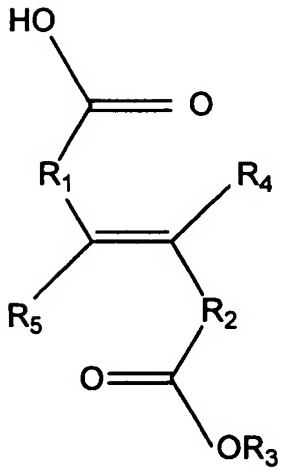
forming a predetermined resist pattern on the substrate by applying an exposure treatment and a development treatment to the photoresist film,

wherein said negative resist composition comprises:

a polymer having any one of dicarboxylate monoester compounds represented by the following general formulae (1) and (2) as a monomer component:



(1)



(2)

wherein, R_1 and R_2 represent a single bond or alkyl chains having ~~0~~ 1 to 8 carbon atoms, R_3 represents a substituent having at least two or more alicyclic structures, and R_4 and R_5 represent hydrogen atoms or alkyl groups having 1 to 8 carbon atoms; and

an acid generator which generates an acid by receiving light irradiation.